

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.

BY ROBERT M'KNIGHT.

Publisher of the Laws of the United States.

Edited by JOHN C. ...

VOL. XI.

CAMDEN, SOUTH-CAROLINA, DECEMBER 10, 1836.

NO. 49.



THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.
Published every Saturday Morning by
ROBERT M'KNIGHT,
PUBLISHER OF THE LAWS OF THE UNION.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Three dollars a year in advance, or four dollar at the end of the year.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Inserted at seventy five cents the square for the first, and half that amount for each continuance.

The number of insertions to be marked on the margin or they will be continued and charged accordingly. Those inserted semi-monthly 75 cents and monthly \$1 a square for each insertion.

Communications by mail to be post paid or remain unattended to.

From the Columbia Telescope, 29th Nov. 1836. This day His Excellency the Governor transmitted to both branches of the Legislature the following

MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOVEMBER 29TH, 1836.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives

About to bid adieu to the cares and responsibilities of public life, and meeting you for the last time, to unite with you in deliberations for promoting the welfare of South Carolina, I am incapable of expressing the gratification I experience in contemplating the spectacle of unexampled prosperity, which now crowns the hopes and blesses the labors of all classes of our Fellow-Citizens.

At no former period, have they enjoyed such pecuniary means of fulfilling their destinies as a community of enlightened freemen, and of discharging the obligations, which they owe to the world and to their posterity, by promoting the great cause of human improvement, and by laying deep the foundations of liberty in a well educated population, and a well organized system of social and civil policy. And while it becomes us to be devoutly thankful to an overruling Providence for these ample means of happiness, we cannot be too deeply impressed with the conviction, that we are responsible to that Providence, for their proper use and improvement. Nor can we, thus highly favored as a people, neglect our advantages with impunity. We must improve the talents entrusted to our care, or pay the penalty denounced against the unprofitable servant. We must give a public-spirited and patriotic direction to the resources of the State, and move forward in the career of improvement, civil, military, moral, intellectual and social, or sink down into that state of sordid selfishness, in which even avarice will be finally overcome by indolence and the love of luxurious indulgence. If it be true, as history but too impressively teaches us—that communities are less capable of bearing prosperity than adversity, it should admonish us of the dangerous influence on which we now stand, where one false and downward step may precipitate us from our envious height into the ignominious gulf below, which yawns ready to receive us.

I wish I could persuade myself that these are mere barren speculations, drawn from the experience of other countries, but inapplicable to our own. But I cannot be blind to the threatening premonitions of a premature national degeneracy which are visible in all directions, and not least conspicuous at the centre of our Federal Empire.

It belongs appropriately to you Fellow Citizens, as the Legislators of South Carolina, and the selected guardians of her welfare, to counteract, by all the means in your power, these fearful and downward tendencies, and to give such a wise and salutary direction to the moral, intellectual and physical energies of the people, as will expand every selfish feeling into patriotism, and impress it upon the mind of every citizen, that his first and greatest interest is the general prosperity of the State, and the security of her institutions, her rights and her liberties.

To build up the solid fabric of the prosperity of a State, by developing the elements of her wealth and power, and organizing systems of public instruction, calculated to elevate the standard of popular morals, and popular intelligence, is the noblest employment that can excite the ambition or task the faculties of legislators and statesmen. In comparison with this, the miserable schemes of petty and selfish ambition, scrambling for office through all the filthy mazes of intrigue and corruption, sink into contempt and insignificance. South Carolina has achieved an enviable reputation by her noble and successful struggle for the essential interests and constitutional rights of the Southern States. Her success in that unequal contest, and the high character with which she came out of it, were principally owing to the apparent and acknowledged fact, that her statesmen and her people were actuated exclusively by a patriotic spirit of resistance, directed against a system of unconstitutional oppression,

without any ulterior purpose of selfish ambition. Let us cherish and preserve the reputation we have thus nobly acquired, as the Romans did their vestal fire.—Let no statesman of South Carolina, tarnish her glorious escutcheon, by enlisting as a partizan under the banner of any of those political chiefs who are grasping at the Presidential Sceptre. The political principles and peculiar institutions of the State may be sold and sacrificed, but most assuredly they can never be preserved by such degrading partizanship. South Carolina, and all the States having similar institutions, "must not put their trust in Presidents," but look to their own power and principles, for the security of their rights and institutions. They are in a permanent minority on all questions affecting these rights and institutions, and whoever may exercise the powers of the chief magistracy, they will be exercised in obedience to the will of the adverse majority. So long as this state of things shall continue; so long as the executive government of the United States shall be conducted by an administration holding principles incompatible with the full security of our institutions and rights; no statesman of South Carolina can become associated with that administration, without justly incurring the imputation of becoming an accomplice in overthrowing the essential guarantees of her vital interests. He cannot worship the sun of federal power, and offer up the homage of a devoted heart on the altars of the State.

If the politicians of all the planting States would act upon these obvious principles, our rights and institutions would be speedily placed upon a foundation which nothing could shake in future.—The whole of those States would be united upon principles essential to their very existence, and standing upon the ramparts of the Constitution, in defence of their sacred rights, would present a phalanx which no assailing power could overcome.

But, however other States may think or act on this subject, I trust these will always be the principles of South Carolina, and that they will be sacredly regarded and faithfully observed by all her public functionaries. I sincerely believe that they constitute the talisman of her political strength, and that if maintained, they will throw around her institutions a magic circle, which neither ambition nor fanaticism will venture to overleap.—Leaving then the federal Government to run its fated career, and standing proudly aloof from all those intriguing combinations, and "entangling alliances" by which politicians may flatter themselves that they are serving their constituents, when they are only promoting their own aggrandizement, let us dedicate all our faculties, and all our efforts, to the improvement of our beloved State, in all that can contribute to her intelligence, wealth, power, and security.

In the accomplishment of these patriotic ends, too much attention cannot be bestowed on the subject of education, in all its stages, and in all its branches. And I beg leave, most respectfully, to refer you to the views entertained in my last annual Message, in relation to the schools of elementary instruction. It is in these humble seminaries, that the rising generation receive those early impressions, which exercise a permanent and decided influence upon their conduct and character in future life.

They are emphatically the nurseries of freemen, and the wisdom of the State can in no way so effectually provide for the perpetuation of our free institutions, as by measures calculated to elevate their character, by securing competent instructors, and furnishing for their use such elementary school books, as will imbue the minds of our youth with sound and practical views, religious, moral, and political.

No constitutional charter, however wise its provisions, can give freedom to a people. We must have free men before we can have a free Government; and we cannot be too deeply impressed with the conviction that the essential qualifications of a freeman, are intelligence to comprehend his rights and interests, with the spirit and the military skill, which are necessary to defend them. The fatal experience of but too many nations and communities around us conclusively demonstrates, that where the body of the people are destitute of these qualifications, every attempt at self government must end in some new form of despotism. In my opinion our systems of School instruction should be made to assume a more practical character, having a more direct reference to the business and the duties of active life. The common reproach against a classical education, that it tends to disqualify our young men from performing these duties, is not without some foundation. It is not uncommon to meet with scholars, well versed in the systems of ancient polytheism. In the fables of the ancient poets, and in the scarcely less fabulous narratives of the ancient historians, who have scarcely a smattering of the history and constitutions of their own country. The effect produced on the minds of young men by a too exclusive attention to such a course

of reading in our schools and colleges, is similar to that which is produced on the minds of young females, by reading sentimental novels. It introduces them into a world of fancy, entirely different in all respects, from that in which they are destined to act a part, and evidently tends to disqualify them from acting that part, amidst the rugged realities of life. To counteract this tendency, a concise popular history of our own country, written in a pure and simple style, and a clear exposition of the great fundamental principles of our system of government, should be introduced into all our grammar schools. For the purpose of effecting this desirable result, means should first be adopted for obtaining these works; and to secure their introduction into our schools, it should be provided in the regulations of the College, that no young man should enter the Sophomore Class who could not stand an examination on the historical narrative, nor the Senior Class who could not stand an examination on the political exposition.

With the same view of giving a more practical bearing to our system of popular instruction, I suggest the expediency of establishing in our College a Professorship of Civil and Military Engineering. The works of internal improvement, which are now in progress, and will probably continue to be projected for many years to come, in South Carolina and the neighboring States, will require the services of a number of civil engineers; and it is in all respects desirable that we should have citizens of our own well qualified in this highly important department, whose services we can at all times command. So great is the demand for this kind of service all over the Union, that the rate of compensation is becoming extravagantly high, and as a measure of economy alone, the establishment of the proposed professorship would be well worthy of consideration.

The department of military engineering, will of course be made to include instruction in the use of artillery, and to this may be usefully added the practical instruction of the young men, at certain hours, in the elements of infantry tactics. My observation and reflection, during the present year, have confirmed the opinion I expressed in my last annual message, as to the expediency of combining in our general system of school instruction, the use of arms and the elements of military tactics, with the common branches of education. There is no other mode, in my opinion, by which such important results can be produced, with so small an expenditure of time and money. Indeed, I have great doubts whether it be not the only practicable mode in which the elementary principles of military movements, can be scientifically imparted to the great body of our citizens. It will supply the great desideratum now experienced in effectually training the militia.—competent officers to command and instruct the militia companies; and I feel a perfect assurance that if generally pursued in our schools, the very next generation that comes upon the stage of active life, will be an army of citizen soldiers, better qualified to defend their rights, than any standing army in the world, after a peace of ten years duration. I suggest therefore, that the young men of the College be organized into one or two corps of cadets, by law, or by the regulations of the institution, and though permitted to elect their own officers, that they be required to devote certain hours to the exercise of drilling, under the superintendence of the military professor, who should be required to act as instructor. The establishment of such a system in the College, would, upon very obvious principles, cause it to be extended to the grammar schools; as every young man, in preparing for college, would naturally desire to qualify himself not only for performing his military exercises, but for aspiring to the honor of a military command. In one of the most distinguished grammar schools of the State, a company of Cadets was formed almost under my own eye, and while their improvement in tactics was striking to every observer,—the intelligent gentleman at the head of the institution assured me, that he derived great advantage in its government from the manliness and sense of honor imparted to the young men by this change in their mode of recreation.

I also recommend the establishment of a Professorship of modern languages, the want of which has been seriously felt ever since the establishment of the College. I believe there are very few graduates of the institution, who have not had occasion to deplore the defect in their education which has resulted from the absence of such a professorship. In the present state of science, and of social and commercial intercourse, a knowledge of the modern languages, is scarcely less important, than that of the ancient. A great many of the most valuable scientific and literary works now extant, are written in foreign languages and having no English translations, are sealed books to those who are ignorant of the languages in which they are written. It is an object of the first importance to have a class of well

educated native merchants, capable of conducting our immense and increasing foreign commerce, who will save to the State the large percentage which the northern merchants receive as a commission for exchanging our productions for those of other countries. Circumstances are now highly favorable to the accomplishment of this patriotic purpose. Let us, then, provide for our young men the means of becoming accomplished merchants; and not the least important accomplishment, is a knowledge of the continental languages, and particularly the French.

These two additional professorships will complete the literary organization of our College, and enable our youth to obtain so complete an education at home, that they will no longer have a motive for going to the Northern Colleges. I need not add, that this is an object of the utmost importance, in the present state of public opinion in the United States, relative to our domestic institutions.

The state of the College discipline is now excellent, and the conduct of the Students during the present year has, with a few exceptions, been highly exemplary. Most of the irregularities that have occurred, have been traced to the shops where wines and ardent spirits are retailed in the town of Columbia, and it has been found impossible to break up entirely the communication between them and the young men of the College. These wretched haunts of dissipation and intemperance, do more to mar the prosperity of the institution, than all other causes united. They thus become nuisances to the whole State, and ought in my opinion to be abated by its authority. The evil is not at all diminished, by the system of licensing.—The revenue derived from it, is but a poor compensation for the privilege of diffusing the elements of moral pestilence amongst those, who are to be the future rulers and legislators of the State.

The flourishing condition of the College must be eminently gratifying to every patriotic citizen in the State, of every denomination, religious or political. And however obvious the truth, we cannot too habitually impress it upon our minds, that the usefulness of this institution, so intimately connected with the character of the State and the welfare of the generations that are to follow us, will greatly depend upon the degree in which the spirit of party, religious and political, shall be excluded from its government. Let this, at least, be a temple dedicated exclusively to Science and Literature, where all the citizens of the State can mingle their devotions in harmony and peace.

The number of Students has so greatly increased since the new organization, that they cannot even now be tolerably accommodated in the rooms provided for them; and when we look forward to the probable increase of students at the commencement of the ensuing year, it is evident that the existing means of accommodation will be wholly insufficient. The erection of an additional edifice for this purpose, therefore, has become a measure not only of expediency, but of absolute necessity; and I recommend that the necessary appropriation be made, as soon as the proper estimates shall be obtained.

The College Library, also, requires a very considerable enlargement to make it correspond with the character of the institution; and I suggest the propriety of making an appropriation of a thousand dollars for this purpose. As I propose to visit Europe during the ensuing year, it will give me great pleasure to execute any commission with which I may be charged in accomplishing this object.

I cannot conclude this interesting topic, without earnestly commending the College to your enlightened patronage and fostering care, as the guardians of the rising generation.

I herewith communicate a copy of an Act of the Congress of the United States, providing that the surplus revenue which shall be in the federal treasury on the first day of January next, shall be distributed among the States of the confederacy in certain specified proportions, to be deposited in their respective treasuries, without bearing interest, until the fiscal wants of the federal government shall render it necessary that the States should refund it. I also communicate a letter from the Secretary of the United States, desiring to be informed at the earliest practicable period, what disposition he shall make of that portion of this fund, which shall fall to the share of South Carolina. As it appropriately devolves upon you to determine what that disposition shall be, I have delayed answering this inquiry, until you shall have given me the necessary authority. It may be important, therefore, that you should act upon the subject with as little delay as possible, and it does not appear to be one which requires much deliberation. None certainly can be required to decide upon the expediency of receiving the money. We find a large surplus of revenue accumulated in the federal treasury, which has been unconstitutional

levied upon the productions of our own industry by a system of oppressive taxation enacted in opposition to our solemn protestations, and attempted to be enforced by the military power of the United States. The money is there without any agency of ours, and the act of distribution involves the question, whether it shall remain deposited in certain banks, to constitute a part of their

banking capital, or be transferred to the treasuries of the respective States, for the use of the people to whom it appropriately belongs, and from whom it should never have been taken. It is impossible to doubt on such a question. But while the justice and necessity of this measure of distribution are equally obvious, under the existing circumstances, let it not be dignified that no proceeding, can be more absolutely fatal to the interests of the exporting States, than that of habitually raising revenue by duties on imports, for the purpose of distributing it among the States. It is to be hoped, therefore, that this hazardous, but necessary measure, will not continue a single day beyond the necessity which gave rise to it; but that the federal treasury will be reduced within constitutional dimensions, by the regular process of reducing the duties, as soon as this can be done consistently with the pledged faith of Congress, implied in the act of 1833.

As to the disposition which it may be expedient for the State to make of this fund, it appears to me, that regarding it as a deposit, the obvious course will be to place it in the Bank of the State, which is precisely the treasury of the State. It will then be used like all other deposits, as a portion of the capital of the bank for the time being, and will justify an extension of its operations, in proportion to the amount and probable continuance of the deposits. If you should concur in this view of the subject, it will be proper that you should confer a special authority on the President or Cashier of the Bank of the State of South Carolina, to receive the sums that shall be payable under the aforesaid act of Congress, and to sign the obligations and acknowledgements therein prescribed, pledging the faith of the State to refund the money on the requisition of the Secretary of the federal treasury. It will, then, be only necessary to request this latter officer to place the sums to which the State may be entitled, as they successively fall due, in the Bank, and to the credit of the State of South Carolina.

I lay before you, in compliance with the request of the President of the Convention which assembled at Knoxville, on the 4th of July last, to consider the subject of a Rail Road between Louisville and Cincinnati and the city of Charleston, a copy of the proceedings of that body.

In one of the resolutions which you will find among those proceedings, an appeal is made to the Legislatures of the States through which the proposed Rail Road is intended to pass, for liberal appropriations from their public treasuries in support of this great work.

An enterprise so gigantic in its nature and extent, and so magnificent in its promised results to the prosperity of South Carolina, pre-eminently deserves, and will doubtless receive your favorable consideration. If successfully conducted to its final accomplishment, it will be a monument worthy of the age, and of which the greatest empire might justly be proud.

It will produce the greatest revolution in commerce ever effected by an artificial channel of communication, and not less important than that which was produced by the discovery of the passage round the Cape of Good Hope. With other causes, now fortunately co-operating, it will enable Charleston to reclaim her lost advantages, and to become the Emporium of the vast and increasing foreign commerce which is founded upon the agricultural productions of the South Atlantic and Western States. Nor will the advantages of this change be confined to Charleston. Every part of the State will enjoy its due proportion of them. A flourishing commercial emporium, like the heart in the animal economy, diffuses life, energy, and health, through the whole system. It is the City of New York, communicating with the world by the ocean, and with the interior by her numerous channels, natural and artificial, that imparts wealth and prosperity to the remotest extremities of that great State. Make Charleston the New York of the South, and corresponding advantages will result, not only to the interior of this State, but to the entire region connected with that city by the ties of commercial intercourse.

Within a certain sphere, according to a well known principle of political economy, the benefits of Commerce cannot be localized. Its beneficent effects are essentially diffusive.

If these views are just, and were properly impressed upon the minds of our Fellow Citizens, they would tend greatly to do away that local spirit, which, by seeking to accomplish mere local purposes, might embarrass the progress, and mar the symmetry of the noble structure we are about erecting. I have too firm a reliance upon the patriotic spirit of our citizens, to believe that these narrow and mistaken views will be permitted to sway the councils by which it is to be planned and erected. It is too mighty an undertaking, will involve too great an expenditure, and is destined to encounter too close a competition, to allow any sacrifice to be made to such views, without exposing the whole enterprise to imminent hazard. That route which is decidedly the best, within the limits of the Charter, if